

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1282

FROM AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG FOR SEC. VANCE, UNDERSEC. CHRISTOPHER,
ASSISTANT SEC. VEST

PASS WHITE HOUSE

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CSCE, VT
SUBJ: CSCE: AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S DISCUSSIONS AT THE VATICAN

1. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE GOLDBERG, ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT
TO PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY, SARROS, CALLED ON VATICAN FOREIGN
MINISTER CASAROLI JANUARY 20 FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF DISCUSSION
ON THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG BRIEFED
CASAROLI ON THE OUTCOME OF PHASE I OF THE CONFERENCE, THE BEHAVIOR
OF OUR ALLIES AND THE HOLY SEE, THE STRATEGY OF THE EAST, AND
THE OUTLOOK FOR PHASE II.

2. STATING THAT HE CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE
WORK OF THE CONFERENCE HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN THE FORM
OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTING OF IMPLEMENTATION, AMBASSADOR
GOLDBERG EXPRESSED IN FRANK TERMS THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED
THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT RECEIVED THE KIND OF BACKING IN
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STRONG SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FROM OUR ALLIES AND THE
HOLY SEE, WHICH WOULD HAVE REALLY IMPRESSED THE SOVIET
UNION AND ITS ALLIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR
GOLDBERG ALSO MENTIONED TWO INCIDENTS IN WHICH IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN APPRECIATED IF THE HOLY SEE HAD CONSULTED WITH HIM
PRIOR TO MAKING PUBLIC ITS POSITIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO VETO ANY MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT EMERGING FROM THE CONFERENCE, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DISLODGE THEM FROM THIS POSITION, GIVEN THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS WHICH IS GOING ON, BUT THAT HE HAD PRESIDENT CARTER'S MANDATE TO PRESS FOR A MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT AND THUS HE WAS ALSO PREPARED TO DENY CONSENSUS RATHER THAN ACCEPT A MEANINGLESS DOCUMENT, WHICH DID NOT FACTUALLY REPORT SHORTCOMINGS THE U.S. HAD SPECIFIED IN THE EASTERN PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS PROGRESS IN HUMANRIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE AND IN ADDITION AN APPROPRIATE REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE BELGRADE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. IF THIS OCCURRED, THE CONFERENCE WILL CONCLUDE WITH A SHORT STATEMENT THAT WE MET IN BELGRADE, HAD A "FRANK" EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND AGREED TO A NEXT MEETING AT MADRID, PREFEREABLY IN THE EARLY SPRING 1980.

4. ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, ON HIS PART STATED THAT THE HOLY SEE APPROVED OF THE STRONG POSITION TAKEN BY THE U.S. AT BELGRADE, THAT AS A GREAT POWER IT WAS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY FOR THE U.S. TO BE THE LEADER IN SEEKING A PUBLIC ACCOUNTING OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND THAT THE HOLY SEE POSITION HAD BEEN FORMULATED WITH THE FACT IN MIND THAT THE CHURCH HAS "HOSTAGES," IN THE FORM OF MILLIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FAITHFUL, IN THE EAST AND DID NOT WISH TO CAUSE THEM ANY MORE DIFFICULTIES THAN THEY PRESENTLY EXPERIENCED. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE HOLY SEE DELEGATION HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION AND HE PERSONALLY HAD ASKED HIS DEPUTY, MONSIGNOR ACHILLE SILVESTRINI, TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG AS SOON AS HE JOINS THE HOLY SEE DELEGATION AT BELGRADE IN EARLY FEBRUARY. THE MEETING AT THE VATICAN WAS CONDUCTED IN A POLITE AND MOST CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE. MONSIGNOR CASAROLI MADE IT A POINT TO EMPHASIZE THE HIGH REGARD THE HOLY SEE ENTERTAINED FOR JUSTICE GOLDBERG PERSONALLY. GARDNER

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